

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Action dated May 12, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 12, 2008. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-18 and 21-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 and 34 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 21-33 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 17, and 34 have been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

Claims 1-18 and 21-34 stand restricted under 35 U.S.C. 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-18 and 34. Claims 1-16 are directed to a species of a lens system for a plurality of charged particle beams having at least two lens modules, each comprising a first pole piece, a second pole piece and at least one opening and wherein each lens module constitutes a component. Claims 17-18 and 34 are being grouped together with claims 1-16 because they could be searched together with these claims without creating an undue burden on the Examiner.
- II. Claims 21-33 are directed to a species of a lens system for a plurality of charged particle beams having at least two openings for charged particle beams and wherein the pole piece unit has an elongated shape and which can have only one lens module.

Applicant elects, without traverse, the claims of Group I (claims 1-18 and 34) for examination.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Restriction Requirement, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests consideration of claims 1-18 and 34.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Randol W. Read, Reg. No. 43,876/

Randol W. Read
Registration No. 43,876
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant